

**Ulster County Environmental Management Council
Monthly Meeting, Howard C. St. John room, SUNY Ulster
May 25, 2011 7:00pm**

Attendance:

Chair: Steve Noble

Municipal Representatives:

Virginia Starke, Hurley
Cindy Lanzetta, Marlborough
John Sansalone, Gardiner
Gregg Swanzey, Kingston
Mary Phillips Burke, Woodstock

At-Large Members:

Bill More, Kingston
Ann Brandt, Woodstock
Julie Noble, Kingston

Guests:

Amanda LaValle, UC Dept. of Environment

Call to Order and Welcome: Steve Noble called the meeting to order 7:13pm

Minutes:

John S. moved, Bill M. seconded to accept the April 27, 2011 minutes with stated amendments.

Department of the Environment:

Amanda brought many copies of the UC Travel Guide, which include the pull out recreation map and are distributed to over 100 sites in the County. There is an overrun of 20,000 of just the map also that are available for distribution. Amanda requested ideas for distribution sites: libraries, National Trails Day/River Day, town offices, Walkway Over the Hudson were suggested. Reception of the map so far have been good, but all errors and emissions should be reported to Amanda, as there will be ongoing updates on the soon to be live interactive web version, due to be live by June 4th, 2011.

Old Business:

2011 CAC Roundtable Meeting: Scott Cuppett, with the NYSDEC Estuary Program was approached to speak about Water Resources in Ulster County but is unavailable to come on the last Wednesday of June. Cindy L. moved to change the June meeting to June 22nd in order to accommodate the speaker if he can make it, and if the room is available, Julie seconded. Steve will promote the event and EMC members can feel free to bring desserts. Amanda is also interested in updating her CAC members of Ulster County's CACs contact list.

Creek Week: September 17-25, 2011. Steve and Amanda, with Amanda Wolfson are going to create registration forms for groups to submit events. Schoharie Watershed Month is happening this month and their events are printed in the Catskill Mountain Region Guide.

It was noted that Aaron Bennett posted the EMC minutes and agendas for the past year online.

Steve mentioned that the domain name: ucenvironment.org expires soon, but it will be renewed.

New Business:

Monday, June 6th, 9:00-4:00, will be the NYSAEMC/NYSACC DEC Annual Update at the DEC offices in Albany. This is a full day event, with lunch, where a number of division heads come and speak about

what their divisions are working on. This program is geared for CACs and EMCs. Pre-registration is required. People should directly respond to the link in the email Steve sent out.

EMC Membership: There are a few municipalities that do not have representatives that attend the monthly meetings, and so we can each work to get more to come. John S. mentioned that a one-pager about "What is the EMC?" or EMC FAQs could be produced for outreach. Town of Ulster, Town of Shandaken, Town of Denning, Town of Olive, Village of Saugerties, Town of Kingston, Village of Ellenville, and Town of Plattekill don't currently have CAC's. It was suggested that a letter go to towns that don't have CAC's to promote their creation, perhaps from Executive Hein. Perhaps this could morph into a Membership and Outreach Committee. Cindy L. has a blurb that she sends to her local high school that she will share for CACs to promote student participation.

Hydrofracking: There is a public hearing Thursday, May 26th in the Hamilton Hearing Room, Legislative Offices in Albany on the health impacts from hydrofracking.

Amanda mentioned that the county passed legislation against leasing county owned property for hydrofracking.

John S. directed folks to www.nywea.org for their position on hydrofracking.

Julie made a motion to move the future EMC meetings earlier, a vote was taken and **the new UCEMC meeting time will be 6:30pm, the last Wednesday of each month.**

Summer Meeting Times: In the past, we didn't host both July and August EMC meetings. John S. moved to take the month of July off. We will then host a xeriscape garden tour/potluck dinner meeting for the August meeting, which Steve and Amanda will plan.

Roundabout:

Gregg (Kingston): Kingston Common Council Finance Committee recommended \$100,000 to hire a consultant to create a Comprehensive Plan for Kingston. There is a Complete Streets Advisory Council that is newly formed and will help to inform that plan. Kingston CAC is looking at setting up a set of conservation standards/guidelines for developers to help the planning department and planning board. John S. suggested that we look into initiatives that Rochester and Syracuse have done to incorporate green infrastructure. June 5th from 3-6pm there is a tour of Williams Lake and is by invitation, but there are also public hearings on June 6th, or written comments can be submitted. June 4th is National Trails Day and River Day, the Kingston Land Trust will be cleaning up parts of the Kingston Point Rail Trail.

Mary Phillips Burke (Woodstock): Has a Wetlands and Watercourse Law, is being reevaluated. There is an Emerald Ash Borer study ongoing in Woodstock. The entire town is going to be undergoing the Hudsonia Biodiversity Study, under a grant.

Bill More: Lead renovation requirement for schools, daycares and businesses: if scrapping paint, need to check for lead, PCBs and heavy metals. There is federal money for the outreach program.

UCRRA is having another Household Hazardous Waste Day at the New Paltz DEC office on July 23rd it is free, even for e-waste, also pharmaceuticals.

John Sansalone (Gardiner): Planning out grant for wetland mapping and public information sessions for law they are creating.

Cindy Lanzetta (Marlborough): Amanda is coming to their next meeting; they didn't have their last meeting. The Greenway Conservancy board is meeting at the Hudson River Maritime Museum on June

9th, Rebecca Martin of the KLT is speaking. League of Women Voters of the Mid-Hudson Region started a solid waste study group, examining the best interest for the region for disposal options.

Virginia Starke (Hurley): Held an Open Space plan public hearing and had about 50 people attend to share comments. Virginia has been doing a study of the turbidity in the Esopus Creek using Secchi Disks to collect data. Catskill Center for Conservation and Development willed acreage in Hurley, will be doing a cleanup.

Ann Brandt: This past weekend, IBM helped cleanup the tracks and Trolley Museum downtown. She also mentioned that Woodstock is working on their NRI and Wetlands and Watercourses Law. Also, she mentioned that there were 76 trees in Woodstock identified to have the potential to have Emerald Ash Borers present on municipal property. One of the members is trying to put together interest to start a community garden. NYS SEQRA Environmental Assessment Forms are up for review, Woodstock CAC is going to make comments. John S. directed folks to the DEC website to see the info on well testing procedures.

Bill More asked about the status of the Burnt Swamp property. Amanda said that this is not held by the County currently, but all of the equipment has been turned over to the county.

Julie mentioned that the Kingston CAC has two vacancies and that kayaking tours begin this weekend through the Kingston Parks and Recreation Department.

Bill moved, Ann seconded to adjourn. Meeting adjourned 9:05pm.

Submitted by Julie Noble